April 1 – 7, 2021 NEWS YOU CAN USE, NEWS YOU CAN TRUST 75¢

THE EAGLE

A PUBLICATION OF ASSOCIATED NEWSPAPERS OF MICHIGAN

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

No. 13 www.associatednewspapers.net

Social worker embedded with Canton police

Hegira Health, Inc. is placing an embedded social worker with the Canton Police Department, a one-year pilot program.

Members of the township board of trustees discussed the program during their March 23 meeting, with Canton Township Director of Public Safety Chad Baugh who explained that many calls to police involve mental health issues, including substance abuse.

"I see it more navigating this world we live in," Baugh said in response to a question from Trustee Sommer Foster.

Proposals came from Hegira Health, Growth Works, and Services to Enhance Potential. Baugh noted his department doesn't have a relationship with the latter, but has worked for years with Growth Works on the youth diversion program.

That keeps young people with less serious offenses out of the criminal justice system, with Baugh noting felony assaults don't qualify for court diversion.

> *"Our biggest concern is that people get the care they need in the moment.*

The Police Department administration and Canton Finance Department interviewed Hegira Health, Growth Works, and STEP, recommending Hegira Health. The one-year program will cost $82,907 to be paid in monthly $6,908.92 installments.

"They're (Hegira) ready to hit the ground running with mental health," Baugh said.

He told Foster and other board members the master's degree program is important, and likely will be filled by a single individual whose hours are to be determined.

"We'll look at all the metrics," at the end of the contract, including referrals, said Baugh.

Jaime White of Hegira Health said her agency has been around some 40 years. It does mobile crisis co-response with eight area departments, including Plymouth Township and Inkster.

The pilot program in Canton began last September, said White. Hegira runs the 24/7 Community Outreach for Psychiatric Emergencies from a Livonia facility.

"Our biggest concern is that people get the care they need in the moment," White said.

Several Canton trustees questioned possible conflict with Growth Works over the diversion program and the new Hegira initiative. Baugh also praised Growth Works, noting "We cannot alienate any program."

"If they (Growth Works) don't get it they don't get it. Professionalism is an expectation of any vendor we bring into this community," Baugh told Clerk Michael Siegrist.

Siegrist explained he is in recovery, and that his wife works as a social worker. He cast the lone "No" vote on March 23 against proceeding with a Hegira Health contract, as he wanted to see details for the other two bidders.

Canton Township Supervisor Anne Marie Graham-Hudak was in favor of the program.

"The one-year pilot with Hegira Health is one of the steps in building a stronger community and also a proactive move to reduce the non-criminal calls for service on our police and other first responders. Police officers respond to many calls in our

See **Police,** page 6

3 facing murder charges in 2017 shooting death

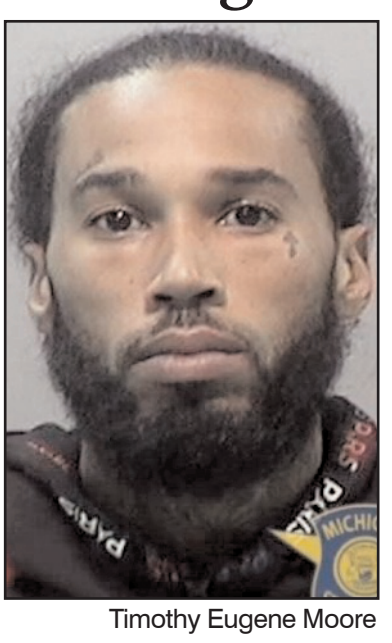
Three men will face trial on multiple charges in the death of 27-year-old Egypt Covington who was killed in her Van Buren Township home on June 22, 2017.

Timothy Eugene Moore, 34, of Toledo, OH, Shandon Ray Groom, 28, also of Toledo, OH, and Shane Lamar Evans, 31, of Sumpter Township were bound over for trial last Thursday by 34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green.

Moore is charged with one count each of first degree murder, felony murder, home invasion first degree, and four counts of felony firearm. Groom was bound over on one count each of first degree murder, felony murder, home invasion first degree, and three counts of felony firearm.

Evans is charged with one count each of felony murder and home invasion first degree. Their arraignments will take place today, April 1, in Third Circuit Court.

Prosecutors allege that the three men were trying to rob the victim's neighbor in the duplex she rented on Hull Road in Van Buren Township. Ms. Covington, a local singer, was found dead from a gunshot wound to the head. Her body was bound with holiday lights, investigators said.



Timothy Eugene Moore

Shandon Ray Groom

Shane Lamar Evans

According to court testimony, Covington's duplex neighbor was a licensed caregiver who kept marijuana in the duplex. The home had been burglarized prior to Covington's murder and marijuana had been stolen from the home at that time, officials said.

The neighbor was not at home at the time of Ms. Covington's death but was attending an annual music festival they usually attended together. Ms. Covington, a well-known vocalist in the area, had declined to attend the festival as she had just started at a new job. Investigators said the crime was timed by the suspects believing that both the victim and the neighbor would be absent and the duplex vacant.

Evans, who occasionally did yard work at the home, told police that the three suspects were together and wanted marijuana.

Two of the three are brothers and the third is a cousin.

Evans told police he drove by the home and pointed out which side of the duplex would have the drugs while Moore, Groom, and another person followed in another vehicle. Moore and Groom are accused of breaking into Ms. Covington's side of the home while she was watching a movie on TV.

The Van Buren Police Department had been investigating the murder prior to the Michigan State Police investigation which began in August 2020.

Evans and Moore were arrested last November and Groom was taken into custody in December.

Ex-councilman rejects plea deal; city manager settles

Criminal charges against former Wayne City Councilman Christopher Sanders will be decided in a jury trial following his rejection of a plea deal from the Wayne County prosecutor.

Sanders is charged with filing a false report of a felony, conspiracy to commit false report of a felony and attempted false report of a felony in connection wtih a 911 call concerning a road rage incident on Oct. 17 of 2017. Through his attorney, John Cahalan, Sanders rejected both proposed plea deals which offered him two years of probation, no jail time, and no personal or third-party contact with Wayne City Manager Lisa Nocerini, the alleged victim in the incident.

Christopher Sanders

The rejected plea deals required Sanders, 52, to plead guilty to conspiring in a false felony report or pleading guilty to attempting a false felony report along with one count of false report of a misdemeanor.

Sanders refused both options and has maintained his innocence of the charges since the investigation began three years ago. He has steadfastly denied the accusation that he paid Jimmie Lee Chandler, 29, of Van Buren Township, to break into Nocerini's car on Oct. 16, 2017, plant a starter pistol and what appeared to be drugs inside. When Nocerini left the Wayne City Hall parking lot the same evening, Chandler claims he called 911 to falsely report a road rage incident describing Nocerini's car and claiming she was brandishing a weapon. According to police reports, there was no response to a call of that description at that time although Chandler, arrested later on a separate warrant, subsequently claimed during a police interview that Sanders paid him to plant the items in Nocerini's car and make the calls.

In a plea deal, Chandler received 18 months probation and court fees. He is eligible for community service, according to court records, if he is unable to pay the court costs.

Nocerini claims she found the items the day after they were placed in her car and reported those findings to police. Following an unsuccessful investigation by law enforcement, Nocerini hired a private detective to pursue the matter. That investigation led to charges filed by Michigan State Police and the implication of Sanders by Chandler last year.

Nocerini sued Sanders, Chandler and the City of Wayne, where she is still employed as the city manager, and has reportedly accepted a settlement of less than $50,000 for damages from the city insurance carrier. The city was liable for any damages awarded in Nocerini's suit as well as legal fees for Sanders as he was a sitting councilman at the time the alleged incident occurred.

THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 136, No. 13

Belleville Police Chief Dave Robinson who assumed the city manager role as an interim position may be offered the job full-time.

See page 4.

THE CANTON EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 13

Last week Canton Township firefighters began operating from the new $6.5 million Fire Station No. 2, located on Warren Road, just west of Haggerty Road.

See page 4.

THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR
Vol. 74, No. 13

Western Wayne Family Health Centers located in Inkster was recently awarded federal funding to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

See page 4.

THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
Vol. 210, No. 13

Voters in the City of Northville and Northville Township will be asked to renew a non-homestead operating millage on a May 4 ballot.

See page 2.

THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE
Vol. 21, No. 13

Beginning today, April 1, there will be specific 15-minute parking spaces in downtown Plymouth to accommodate local businesses.

See page 6.

THE ROMULUS ROMAN
Vol. 136, No. 13

Edward Martell, who served as a Romulus Community Schools Board of Education Trustee since 2018, resigned effective Monday, March 22.

See page 3.

THE WAYNE EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 13

The Wayne Police Department will soon offer the Hope Not Handcuffs program to those who struggle with a substance use disorder and want to find recovery.

See page 5.

THE WESTLAND EAGLE
Vol. 74, No. 13

The William P. Faust Public Library in Westland has a permanent new director with the appointment of Jennifer Roth by unanimous vote of the library board members.

See page 5.

Northville

Schools to seek non-homestead millage renewal

Voters in the City of Northville and Northville Township will be asked to renew a non-homestead operating millage for the Northville Public Schools on a May 4 ballot.

The ballot question would renew the current millage rate of 19.2383 mills on all non-homestead property for five years, from 2022 to 2026. This millage applies only to non-homestead property such as businesses, rental properties, and second homes. Even though owners of primary residences are not affected, state law requires a district-wide election to approve the operating millage, district officials said.

The current operating millage generates about $10 million annually for Northville schools, representing 16 percent of the overall operating revenues. The money received from the operating millage supports day-to-day operations of the schools, including payment of salaries and benefits, classroom supplies and materials, and student transportation and building maintenance. Failure to pass the millage renewal would result in a significant loss in operating revenue for the school district beginning in 2022, officials noted.

> *Additionally, this millage is vital to ensuring the district receives the full per pupil allocation from the state.*

This is not a new tax, administrators stressed. This millage was last approved by voters in November 2011, when voters approved a millage rate of 20.9100 mills. That millage has been reduced to 19.2383 through subsequent Headlee Amendment adjustments and the school district is seeking only to renew the reduced rate of 19.2383 mills.

Additionally, this millage is vital to ensuring the district receives the full per pupil allocation from the state, according to information posted on the district website. In order to receive this full allocation, school districts must levy the statutory maximum operating millage of 18 mills. Although the current ballot proposal requests 19.2383 mills, the district cannot levy more than 18 mills, just as is occurring today.

The remaining 1.2383 mills would serve as a hedge against future Headlee adjustments, thereby ensuring the district can continue to levy 18 mills and receive the full per pupil allocation from the state.

More information regarding the May 4 non-homestead operating millage renewal may be directed to NPS@northvilleschools.org.

Northville Art House exhibits work of local students

The Northville Art House is celebrating the spirit of creativity in Northville Public Schools through two exhibitions, the Northville High School International Baccalaureate (IB) Art Exhibition and the Northville Public Schools Virtual Art Exhibition, on view until April 14.

The Northville High School IB Art Exhibition is a culmination of the annual International Baccalaureate Art program at Northville High School. In the program, students explore skills, techniques, processes, and vocabulary which they use to pursue an in-depth investigation of art and this self-curated group exhibition, an art house spokesman said. In the exhibition, 19 students are displaying their best work along with a written rationale at the Northville Art House.

"The IB Art students showed a passion for art throughout and despite this pandemic. I am so proud of their commitment to create artwork that is meaningful and personal. These pieces have a connection not only to the artist, but hopefully to all who view them. We thank the art house for their generous donation of the time and space to house this special and unique exhibition," said Monika Miller, lead instructor of the IB art program at Northville High School.

The Northville Public Schools Virtual Art Exhibition, which began in 1999, takes place annually to promote the appreciation and importance of arts education. This year art house will present online the artwork of 27 students in Grades 6 - 12 from Meads Mill Middle School, Hillside Middle School, and Northville High School. The students' work is juried and prizes totaling more than $100 will be awarded. The public is invited to view and comment on the artwork and exhibition at www.northvillearthouse.org/virtualexhibitions.

Brian Balcoff, Instructor and coordinator for the NPS Virtual Art Exhibition at Northville High School, shares, "Art is like a handwritten letter, hot soup, and a glass of Vernors - soothing, restorative, and simply heartfelt!

Thank you to the art students for bringing a smile to my face, time after time, year after year, and school day after school day," said Brian Balcoff, instructor and coordinator for the Northville Public Schools Virtual Art Exhibition.

The Northville Art House offers free admission during gallery hours, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Wednesday - Thursday and 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Friday - Saturday. The Art House will be closed Easter weekend, April 2 - 4. Visitors are required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing. The Northville Art House is located at 215 W. Cady in Northville.

The exhibit will include: Hamin Park, Northville High School, 11th grade, My Pet Fish, above left; Hana Ichikawa, Northville High School, 11th grade, Abundance, above center, and Sierra Haran, Hillside Middle School, 6th grade, Pineapple Vacation, above right.

The Northville Art House is a nonprofit 501(c)3 art facility located in historic downtown Northville.

The Art House has cultivated the Arts through creative experiences and educational programs in the Metro Detroit community since 2005.

Gallery exhibitions, art fairs, and an artisan store present the work of local and international emerging and established artists. In-house workshops, virtual classes, and community outreach provide art education in the areas of painting, drawing, printmaking, hand-sculpture, photography, graphic design, crafts, and mixed-media.

For more information visit www.northvillearthouse.org.

Garden Club meeting is planned

Members of the Country Garden Club of Northville will be meeting via Zoom at 11 a.m. April 7.

The speaker will be Rachel Hagen from the Living and Learning Enrichment Center.

For information on participating in the meeting or the club, call (734) 751-1156 or e-mail BQSturtz@comcast.net.

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NOTICE TO RESIDENTS
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON

If you experience an overflow or backup of a sewage disposal system or storm water system, you must file a written claim with the Charter Township of Canton, Division of Public Works within 45 days after the overflow or backup was discovered. Notice should be mailed to Charter Township of Canton, Division of Public Works, 4847 Sheldon Road S, Canton, Michigan 48188. Failure to provide the written notice will prevent recovery of damages. Contact the Division of Public Works at 734/397-1011 for assistance immediately upon discovery of an overflow or backup.

THANK YOU
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
DIVISION OF PUBLIC WORKS

Publish: April 1 and April 8, 2021

CN2204 - 040121 2.5 x 1.711

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 3:00 p.m. Thursday, April 15, 2021 for the following:

ADA PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS - INDEPENDENCE AND GRIFFIN PARKS

Bids may be picked up at the Finance and Budget Department, on our website at www.canton-mi.org, or you may contact Mike Sheppard at: 734/394-5225. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the proposal name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.

MICHAEL SIEGRIST, CLERK

Publish 4/01/2021

CN2205 - 040121 2.5 x 2.056

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 04/01/21

CN2203 - 040121 2.5 x 4.72

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST
MAY 4, 2021 SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Public Accuracy Test for the May 4, 2021 Special Election is scheduled for **Friday, April 9, 2021 at 10:30 am** in the lobby of Township Hall, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, Michigan.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to determine that the program and the computer being used to tabulate the results of the Election count the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

The public is welcome and invited to attend.

Roger Lundberg
Township Clerk

Publish: April 1, 2021

NT0123 - 040121 2.5 x 1.962

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - PUBLIC HEARING
April 21, 2021 - 7:00 PM

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has scheduled a public hearing for April 21, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Northville Township Municipal Office Building, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville MI **OR** by electronic remote access per the most current Governor's Executive Order. For information on how to view and participate in the meeting, **please visit the township's website at https://twp.northville.mi.us**. The ZBA will consider a variance request to Chapter 170, Zoning Ordinance for property at 46150 Neeson Street.

- Article 18.1, Schedule of Regulations (Rear Yard Setback)

Written comments regarding these requests will be received by the ZBA at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48168. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

Paul Slatin, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals

Publish: April 1, 2021

NT0125 - 040121 2.5 x 2.296

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE
ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY,
MAY 4, 2021
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Northville Township who is not registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is Monday, April 19, 2021.

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.497) at the Northville Township Clerk's office, located at 44405 Six Mile Road, Northville MI 48168 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 1st from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday May 4th from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Northville Township residents in **Precinct 1-6 & 8-12** will be voting on the following:

Northville Public Schools
Operating Millage Renewal Proposal
Exempting Principal Residence
And Other Property Exempted By Law
19.2383 Mills For 5 Years

Full text of the ballot proposition may be obtained at the administrative offices of Northville Public Schools, 405 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan 48167, telephone: (248) 344-3500.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Northville Township residents in **Precinct 7 will NOT** be voting in this election because they are part of the Plymouth-Canton Community School District.

A sample of each ballot is available at the Northville Township's Clerk's Department and at the township's website: www.twp.northville.mi.us.

Roger Lundberg
Charter Township of Northville Clerk

Publish: April 1, 2021

NT0124 - 040121 2.5 x 4.875

ROMULUS

Hot idea

Romulus Fire Department teams up with high school, college for training

Aspiring fire fighters can expect some hands-on training while still in high school at the Schoolcraft College Fire Training Institute where the Romulus Fire Department is a partner in their professional education.

Romulus Fire Chief Kevin Krause said the city and the department recognized the need for more firefighters and alternative trade options for high school students some time ago. The Romulus Fire Department partnered with the college and local high schools to dual enroll students in the college Fire Training Institute.

In Michigan, individuals under 18 can only start firefighter training if they are sponsored as a cadet by a fire department. Krause and the Romulus Fire Department stepped up to bring students on board.

The Romulus Fire Department coordinates with local high school counselors to identify and sponsor students who are interested in attending the Fire Training Institute. In the two years the city has engaged in the program, the fire department has sponsored five cadets.

"As high school students begin to think about their futures, the Romulus Fire Department wanted to be there to offer an option that would help put them on the pathway to a successful career-ideally right here in Romulus," Krause said. "Providing students the tools and resources they need will not only help them succeed but also create a workforce development pipeline that leads back to the Romulus community."

The Romulus Fire Department-sponsored cadets receive the regulation blue uniform, which includes pants, a shirt, tie and belt. Cadets also have the opportunity to join the fire department at City of Romulus events, such as the Pumpkin Festival and Parade of Lights.

Interested high school juniors and seniors have the option to dual enroll with the institute in one of two ways. They can choose to enroll for a semester during the school year and take two Schoolcraft night classes per week, similar to sports and other extra-curricular activities. Alternately, students can choose to take classes during the summer. By the end of the program, cadets will have completed their Fire Fighter 1 and Fire Fighter 2 courses and will be well on their way to completing their associate's degree-putting them on a successful and rewarding career path even before graduating high school, Krause said.

Required qualifications and training vary between local departments, but cadets who complete the program are able to start with the Romulus Fire Department upon graduation as an EMT or firefighter, so long as they are actively working to get their paramedic license.

For more information, visit https://www.schoolcraft.edu/inservice/fire-training.

School board president resigns, applicants sought

Edward Martell, who served as a Romulus Community Schools Board of Education Trustee since 2018, announced his immediate resignation due to a change of residency, effective Monday, March 22.

Superintendent of Romulus Community Schools Dr. Benjamin P. Edmondson said that Martell, who served as president of the school board, was "the epitome of what our board president needed to be" since taking over six months ago.

"He shielded us from nonsense at the board table; he emphasized order; he worked collaboratively with me and the board members; he led with efficiency and not once micromanaged."

The remaining members of the board of education will be accepting letters of intent for candidates interested in completing Martell's term which will end Dec. 31, 2022. Elections for this seat are planned for November, 2022.

Qualified candidates must be a resident within the boundaries of the Romulus Community Schools District; a registered voter in the school district; 18 years of age or older and a citizen of the United States of America

Board members will interview qualified applicants at a special meeting and expect to appoint a new member within the next 30 days.

For additional information or questions, contact Debi Pyles, interim board president, at dspyles@romulusk12.org.

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with the subject "subscribe".

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
March 1, 2021
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174

MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM MEETING TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Barden.

Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Councilperson Wadsworth.
Roll Call
Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Eva Webb, Virginia Williams
Absent / Excused:
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
LeRoy Burcroff, Mayor
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Administrative Staff in Attendance:
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Julie Wojtylko - Chief of Staff; Merrie Druyor - TIFA/DDA Director; Gary Harris - Purchasing Director; Roberto Scappaticci - DPW Director; Kathy Hood - Assistant DPW Director; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Mike Laskaska - Director of Communications & Community Development; Stephen Dudek - Director of Technology Services

1. **Agenda**
   A. Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to accept the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
2. **Minutes**
   A. **Res. #21-058** Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 7:30pm. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Webb, Williams; Abstain - Wadsworth **Motion Carried**
   B. **Res. #21-059** Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by Kathy Abdo to approve the minutes from the special meeting(s) held on Monday, February 22, 2021 @ 6:30pm to discuss charter amendment(s). Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Webb, Williams; Abstain - Wadsworth **Motion Carried**
3. **Petitioner** - None
4. **Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem**
   A. **Res. #21-060** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by Eva Webb to adopt a resolution in recognition of a milestone birthday for Jan Lemmon. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to accept the Chairperson's Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
5. **Mayor's Report - LeRoy D. Burcroff, Mayor**
   A. **Res. #21-061** Moved by **Eva Webb,** seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to concur with the administration and consent to piggyback on the State of Michigan's extendable Purchasing Program MiDeal Contract #07B7700171 with WEX and Speedway for our Fleet Gas Card. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   B. **Res. #21-062** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the administration and consent to piggyback on the MiDeal Contract #07B770081 to purchase one (1) 2021 GMC One-Ton Dump Truck in the amount of $50,938.00 from Todd Wenzel GMC. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   C. **Res. #21-063** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to concur with the administration and consent to piggyback on the MiDeal Contract #07B770081 to purchase one (1) 2020 Ford F250 Pick-up Truck in the amount of $33,523.00 with Gorno Ford. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   D. **Res. #21-064** Moved by **Tina Talley,** seconded by **William Wadsworth** to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the contract with the State of Michigan for the pathway construction on Huron River Drive from Northline Road to Five Points Intersection with a cost-share of $93,153.00 (split amongst DPW and DDA). The State of Michigan has awarded the City of Romulus $372,747.00. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
6. **Clerk's Report - Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk**
   A. **Res. #21-065** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Second Reading and Final Adoption of Budget Amendment for the May 4, 2021 Special School Election in the amount of $45,000.00. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   B. **Res. #21-066** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to approve the request for Study Session to discuss a proposed Charter amendment and Electronic Council meetings. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
7. **Treasurer's Report - Stacy Paige, Treasurer -** See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes.
8. **Public Comment** - See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes.
9. **Unfinished Business** - None
10. **New Business** - None
11. **Communication** - See Clerk's Office for Complete copy of minutes.
12. **Adjournment**
    Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.
    Motion Carried Unanimously

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on March 1, 2021.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

RM0562 - 040121 2.5 x 9.726

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 22, 2021
Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174
MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY
VIA ZOOM MEETING TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Mayor Pro-tem John Barden
Pledge of Allegiance - Led by Councilperson Abdo
Roll Call
Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, Eva Webb, Virginia Williams
Absent / Excused: William Wadsworth
Administrative Officials in Attendance:
LeRoy Burcroff, Mayor
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
Stacy Paige, Treasurer
Administrative Staff in Attendance:
D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Kevin Krause - Director of Fire & Emergency Services; Roberto Scappaticci - DPW Director; Gary Harris - Purchasing Director; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Robert Pfannes - Chief of Police; Derran Shelby - Police Captain, Mike Laskaska - Director of Communications & Community Service; Stephen Dudek - Director of Technology Services; Julie Albert - Director of Assessing & Financial Services; Patty Braden - Library Director

1. **Agenda**
   A. Moved by **Tina Talley,** seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to accept the agenda as presented. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
2. **Minutes**
   A. **Res. #21-045** Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held on Monday, February 08, 2021 @ 7:30p.m. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   B. **Res. #21-046** Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting - Closed Session held on 2/8/21 @ 5:00 pm to discuss attorney opinion and a public hearing held on 2/8/21 @ 6:00 pm to discuss Demolition List 20-01. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
3. **Petitioner** - None
4. **Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem**
   A. **Res. #21-047** Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to adopt a resolution in recognition of the 94th birthday of Florence Rupert. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to accept the Chairperson's Report. **Motion Carried Unanimously.**
5. **Mayor's Report - LeRoy D. Burcroff, Mayor**
   A. **Res. #21-048** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by Kathy Abdo to concur with the administration and adopt the Resolution for the City of Romulus Poverty Exemption for 2021 to be used by the Board of Review. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   B. **Res. #21-049** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to concur with administration and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Lease Agreement with City of Romulus Municipal Library located at 11121 Wayne Road, Romulus, MI 48174. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   C. **Res. #21-050** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by Eva Webb to concur with administration and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Lease Agreement with Growth Works Incorporated, for the lease of 2,000 sq. ft. of space located at 11113 S. Wayne Road, 48174 on the second floor of the 34th District Court building. Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb; Nays - Williams **Motion Carried**
   D. **Res. #21-051** Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Inter-Governmental Agreement with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for the awarded grant for training and education purposes for the Romulus Animal Shelter. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   E. **Res. #21-052** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the administration and consent to piggyback on the MiDeal Contract #071B6600126 to purchase ammunition for both practices at the range and on-duty purposes in the amount of $12,189.60 from Vance Outdoor Inc. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   F. **Res. #21-053** Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the administration and extend the contract from ITB 20/21-05 with Davenport Masonry Inc., for the repairs of the South Elevation of Fire Station #4 located at 28777 Eureka Road, in the amount of $14,900.00 with an additional 10% contingency for any unforeseen necessary repairs. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   G. **Res. #21-054** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to concur with the administration and authorize the refurbishing of the Department of Public Works' Gradall by AIS Construction Equipment under the terms of Sole Source Purchases Exception in Section 39-11(d)(1)c.1 of the City of Romulus Purchasing Ordinance in the amount of $93,000.00. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
   H. **Res. #21-055** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to concur with the administration and introduce budget amendment 20/21-14 to recognize a budget amendment for May 4, 2021 Special School Election.

FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.	ACCOUNT NAME	CURRENT BUDGET	AMENDMENT	AMENDED BUDGET
Clerk				
Revenue				
101-262-682.262	Election Reimbursement	$-	$ 45,000.00	$ 45,000.00
Expense				
101-262-728.000	Postage		$7,000.00	$7,000.00
101-262-729.000	Election Supplies		$20,000.00	$20,000.00
101-262-818.000	Contractual Svcs		$14,000.00	$14,000.00
101-262-900.000	Print & Publ.		$500.00	$500.00
101-262-710.000	Overtime		$3,500.00	$3,500.00
			Total	**$45,000.00**

6. **Clerk's Report - Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk**
   A. **Res. #21-056** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to approve the Study Session request from Mayor Burcroff for March 1, 2021 @ 6:00pm to discuss Honorary Street Sign Dedication Policy. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
7. **Treasurer's Report - Stacy Paige, Treasurer -** See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes
8. **Public Comment -** See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes
9. **Unfinished Business -** See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes
10. **New Business -** None
11. **Warrant**
    A. **Res. #21-057** Moved by **Kathy Abdo,** seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve warrant #: 21-4 Checks presented in the amount of $909,024.86. **Motion Carried Unanimously**
12. **Communication** - See Clerk's Office for complete copy of minutes
13. **Adjournment**
    Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to adjourn the meeting at 8:38pm.
    Motion Carried Unanimously

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on February 22, 2021.

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan

RM0563 - 040121 2.5 x 13.102

Belleville - Canton - Inkster

Federal grant will help fund local health clinic

Western Wayne Family Health Centers located in Inkster was recently awarded federal funding to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Inkster center, located on Hamlin Boulevard, will share in the $3,109,250 grant announced by U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters. The funding can be used by health centers for staffing, personal protective equipment, screening, testing, or other needs for fighting the coronavirus pandemic. This funding comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and was included in the American Rescue Plan that was signed into law on March 11, according to a prepared statement from the congress members.

> "This funding comes from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

"While working on the relief package, I fought to increase funding for health centers to help them meet the needs of the communities they serve during this crisis. The nurses, doctors and health care providers in these centers are on the front lines of this public health crisis and have been challenged like never before. This funding will help meet the urgent need for personal protective equipment, test kits, and staffing in these centers. I'm grateful for their work keeping Michigan families safe," said Stabenow.

"As more Michiganders become eligible to receive COVID vaccines, it is critical that health care centers in underserved communities have the resources needed to accelerate vaccination efforts," Peters said. "I am pleased that this robust funding - which I helped pass and enact as part of the American Rescue Plan - will help these centers increase vaccinations, bolster testing, expand treatment and provide preventive medical care to Michiganders at higher risk of infection. I will keep working to ensure Michigan has the resources and support needed to get through this crisis and beyond."

"These funds will allow Michigan community health centers to expand COVID-19 vaccinations for vulnerable populations in an equitable manner, while at the same time providing preventive and primary health care services to those at high risk," said Dennis Litos, CEO of the Michigan Primary Care Association.

Station identification

Last week Canton Township firefighters began operating from the new Fire Station No. 2, located on Warren Road, just west of Haggerty Road. The new $6.5 million building replaces the original Station No. 2 built in the early 1970s, and will continue to serve the northeast section of Canton. The new, larger facility is expected to improve service levels in the area with the capability of housing two additional firefighters who will staff a second ambulance providing service from the new location, officials said. Other features of the new station include a decontamination area for firefighters to wash up before entering the station after potentially harmful exposures; a turnout gear extractor to wash cancer-causing carcinogens off of gear exposed to smoke and fire; and an updated plymovent system that removes exhaust fumes from fire apparatus moving in and out of the bay. This new station also includes the first gym area dedicated to fire department staff which will allow firefighters the ability to work out on or off shift-improving their physical and mental health and well-being, officials said. The original Station #2, located on the same property, is scheduled to be demolished later this month. Fire department personnel hosted a ceremonial ribbon cutting last week for the Township Board of Trustees, and plan to host an open house to the public in the fall - pending pandemic guidelines.

Police chief may become Belleville city manager

One candidate to become the new city manager in Belleville stood out above the other 20 hopefuls who applied for the job.

Police Chief Dave Robinson who assumed the city manager role as an interim position when Tracey Schultz-Kobylarz left the job about a month ago, is expected to be offered the job while continuing to lead the police department.

Schultz-Kobylarz was hired when former long-time City Manager Diana Kollmeyer retired in February of 2020. During a Zoom meeting earlier this month, members of the city council agreed to establish a committee to explore the possibility of having Robinson, also hired in February of 2020, continue in the city manager position while continuing his current responsibilities as police chief.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said during the meeting that she thought this was "a great idea." The committee is expected to return to the council with a report in early April.

Members of the council agreed that Robinson was admirably and efficiently fulfilling the role and that they were "comfortable" with his performance.

Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte said that he felt the communication Robinson and Clerk/Treasurer Vern Chapman were providing was outstanding. He said that he saw no reduction in services with Robinson in the dual role.

One of the 20 candidates who applied for the city manager job dropped out of the running, leaving 19 candidates to be considered by the city, all of whom, according to Conley, wanted a minimum salary of $130,000.

Councilman Ken Voight commented that of the 19 applicants, he felt only three or four might be interviewed for the job. He said he was not impressed with most of the applicants and felt it could be a waste of time to interview them.

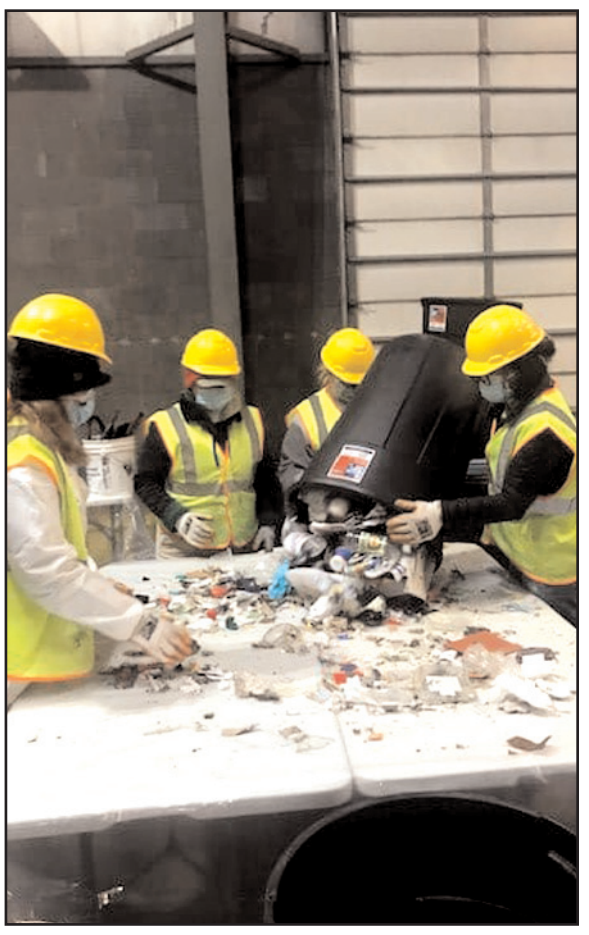
"I'm impressed with the administrative abilities of the chief," Voight, who previously served as police chief, said.

"He came in and immediately identified the two biggest problems in the department and he took care of it. I'm in favor of having him as city manager indefinitely."

Robinson said he would entertain the idea and have a conversation about assuming the dual role full-time.

Going green

Employees at the Materials Recovery Facility sorted truckloads of refuse dumped into recycling bins in Canton Township and delivered to the facility. Multiple contaminants were found, officials said, including wall paneling, food, plastic bags, construction materials and metal tools. Officials cautioned that these items should not be placed in recycling carts and recyclable materials include: cardboard, paperboard, junk mail, office paper, plastics #1-8, steel cans, tin cans, aluminum cans, pots and pans, clear glass, phone books, plastic bags, newspapers, magazines, and catalogs. A recycling bin can be purchased from the Canton Township Clerk's office for $10.



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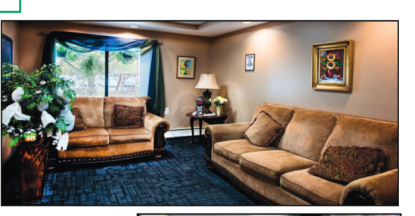

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- Senior Empowerment
- Social Interaction

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59. Auctions

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MARTIN'S TOWING
17180 DIX TOLEDO
BROWNSTOWN
MI 48193
APRIL 5, 2021
10:00 A.M.

1996 FORD
1FTEF15N9TLA15470
2010 FORD
3FAHP0HA3AR158030
2005 CHEVROLET
1G1ZS52F45F265932
1999 FORD
1FTYR10C2XPB94217
2008 CHRYSLER
2A8HR54P18R833829
2013 CHEVROLET
1G11C5SAXDF282481
2017 DODGE
2C3CDXGJ9HH597618
2013 CHRYSLER
2C3CCABG9DH558651
2005 MERCURY
1MEFM55S75A624447
2014 FORD
1FADP3E28EL133500
2020 DODGE
2C3CDXGJ3LH176294
2018 NISSAN
1N4AL3AP5JC101839
2009 DODGE
2D8HN44E79R566050
2004 KIA
KNALD124745033736
2006 DODGE
1B3EL46XX6N278815
2003 CHEVROLET
1GNDU03E73D170986

THE FOLLOWING CARS HAVE BEEN DEEMED ABANDONED BY THE WESTLAND POLICE DEPT. AND WILL BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC AUCTION AT BISHOP AUTO WRECKING LLC AT 2780 SPRINGHILL INKSTER, MI 48141 ON FRIDAY APRIL 9 , 2021 AT 10AM.

2001 JEEP
(1J4GW58S01C635844)
2009 SATURN
(3GSCL33P09S550050)
2006 MERCURY
(2MEFM75V76X651260)
2008 CHEVROLET
(2G1WT58K589248761)

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WAYNE - WESTLAND

Hope Not Handcuffs

Drug counseling program now available through Wayne police

The Wayne Police Department will soon offer the Hope Not Handcuffs program to those who struggle with a substance use disorder and want to find recovery.

Members of Families Against Narcotics (FAN), a nonprofit organization founded in 2007, are teaming up with the Wayne and Garden City police departments to offer the Hope Not Handcuffs" program, which has compassionately assisted nearly 5,400 people statewide since its launch in February of 2017,

Hope Not Handcuffs-which has more than 100 participating police departments statewide-brings law enforcement and community organizations together in an effort to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help to reduce their dependency on prescription medications, heroin, alcohol, and other drugs.

The program concept is simple: any person who is battling a substance use disorder can go to any participating police agency and ask for help. They will be greeted with support, compassion, and respect, and one of the Family Against Narcotics trained "Angels" will provide them with resources and guide them through a brief intake process to help them get the treatment they need and deserve.

Hope Not Handcuffs also provides trained and certified Peer Recovery Coaches for the individuals who participate in the program, as well as Family Recovery Coaches for family members or loved ones, according to a spokesman. The goal is to help everyone who's been affected by the disease of addiction find recovery.

> *Unfortunately, many people struggling with addiction end up in the criminal justice system when they really just need treatment.*

"I am excited about the Wayne Police Department's partnership with Hope Not Handcuffs," Wayne Police Chief Ryan Strong said.

"Thanks to the dedicated volunteers at Hope Not Handcuffs, we will soon be able to get desperately needed help for those members of our community who are facing addiction. Unfortunately, many people struggling with addiction end up in the criminal justice system when they really just need treatment," Strong continued. "Hope Not Handcuffs provides a great mechanism for people to get access to treatment 24/7/365."

Meanwhile, Garden City Police Chief Tim Gibbons added, "Garden City PD is excited to be partnering with Hope Not Handcuffs to offer help and hope to those seeking to recover from addiction. The easier we make it for those seeking to overcome an addiction, the better. Better for the person seeking to recover, better for families, and better for our communities."

The Garden City and Wayne police departments will not only provide access to Hope Not Handcuffs for residents of those two cities, but also for people in Canton, Plymouth, Westland and Northville. Inkster police have also implemented the program through a partnership with GrowthWorks.

New library director named

The William P. Faust Public Library in Westland has a permanent new director.

Members of the Westland Library Board approved the appointment of Jennifer Roth to the position at their March 17 meeting.

Roth had been serving as the interim library director since September of last year and was named as the new director following an interview with the board members March 16. Her new, permanent title, became effective immediately.

Jennifer Roth

Prior to her appointment, Roth served for three years as the head of information services for the Westland library. She has more than 17 years of experience in library services, having formerly worked in libraries in Flint and Hartland. Roth graduated from Wayne State University with a masters degree in Library Information Science (MILS) in 2003. She is a member of the American Library Association as well as the Michigan Library Association, where she serves on the planning committee.

Roth's selection was by a unanimous vote of the members of the Westland Library Board. She was also highly recommended for the position by the former library director.

"I am excited to take on this new position," commented Roth. "It has been an honor to be involved in the progress at the library over the past three years and I look forward to continuing that progress alongside our talented staff as we continue to navigate through these challenging times."

Her Honor

During Women's History Month which ended yesterday, the City of Westland celebrated the achievements of the only individual in the history of the city to lead all three branches of the governing bodies in the community; legislative, executive, and judicial. Current 18th District Judge Sandra Ference Cicirelli was first elected to the Westland City Council in 1990, where she served as council president for 6 years. She was elected mayor of Westland in 2002 and then elected as 18th District Judge in 2007, where she currently continues to serve the community. Called "a true trailblazer," Cicirelli has served the community for four decades including participation with the Westland Youth Assistance Program, the Westland Chamber of Commerce, the Westland Jaycees, the Westland Goodfellows and several other local community groups. Cicirelli is the mother of two and grandmother of two.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE SPECIAL ELECTION
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021
SUMPTER TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF SUMPTER TOWNSHIP:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of Sumpter Township who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at mi.gov/vote and mailed to the Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.expressSOS.com.

The last day to register in any matter other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, April 19, 2021**

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) as the Sumpter Township Clerk's office, located at 23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 2, 2021 from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, May 4, 2021 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Monroe Intermediate School District will be voting on the following proposal as presented and listed below:

MONROE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
This proposal will allow the intermediate school district to continue to levy regional enhancement millage that will expire with the 2021 levy. Pursuant to state law, the revenue raised by the proposed millage will be collected by the intermediate school district and distributed to the constituent districts of the intermediate school district based on pupil membership count.

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained in the Sumpter Township Clerk's office, 23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111, telephone: (734) 461-6201. A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the Clerk's office.

Esther Hurst
Sumpter Township, Clerk

Published: The Eagle; April 1, 2021
Posted: March 22, 2021

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Police

FROM PAGE 1

community including the recent increase in domestic violence, suicide and mental health issues, among others. Approximately 15 percent of Canton Police Department calls for service are non-criminal related and social workers will be Canton's second responders, assist where needed and also provide guidance to resources for our residents," she said.

Baugh noted there are hundreds of cases where a social worker will help, adding of police "The uniform is a barrier in itself."

The embedded social worker program is one of the multiple programs the police department has originated, Baugh explained. The programs include the Police Community Engagement Team, the Juvenile Diversion Program, and the Canton Coalition for Inclusive Communities (CCIC).

The embedded social worker program is another step in providing better service to our community, he said. Over the past few years, the police department has been monitoring the successes in portions of the country with similar embedded social worker programs. During the same timeframe, locally, the Canton Police Department has started a diversion program for Canton area youth with Growth Works' assistance. Similarly, Canton Police Department, in partnership with Growth Works, Saint Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Livonia, Northville Township, Westland, and Livonia, started a collaboration with a Growth Works' driven program. The program is commonly called Wayne Rescue Recovery and has grown from the original partnership with St. Mary Mercy Livonia to the 18 participating public safety departments in Western Wayne County, Baugh explained in a prepared statement. The recovery program is voluntary and was started by the founding agencies in 2018. The program employs peer recovery coaches who assist clients through their journey to recovery.

The Canton Police Department handles mental health emergencies as a medical issue, focusing on a peaceful resolution to the situation through de-escalation. Canton police officers look at problems in a manner to help reduce danger for all parties. Further, Canton police officers look for opportunities to bring a holistic approach, including co-response initiatives with mental health professionals, social work professionals, family, friends, clergy, and support groups. In certain circumstances, there is a blend of many resources, including the criminal justice system and the police juvenile diversion program, Baugh said.

Hegira Health is a co-occurring (substance use and mental health) capable agency through Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and integrates Peer services (Peer Recovery Coaches, Certified Peer Support Specialists, and Parent Support Partners)

> *"The embedded clinician's role is focused on crisis stabilization as opposed to long-term treatment.*

throughout their programs and has adopted the nationally-recognized Zero Suicide framework for suicide prevention. In addition, Hegira is funded as a CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic), which means that they can serve all people regardless of insurance status for ongoing treatment and services.

For Canton Police Department, Hegira will ensure that the selected clinician is trained in Trauma-Informed Care, suicide prevention, and crisis response. The embedded clinician will follow-up with individuals and families with whom they have had contact to provide ongoing crisis stabilization to ensure they are linked with ongoing treatment and services in the community.

One of the program's primary goals is to prevent future behavioral health crises, and engagement in ongoing treatment is a key component of prevention. For that reason, the embedded clinician's role is focused on crisis stabilization as opposed to long-term treatment. The clinician will work with the individual or family to access services at their treatment provider of choice. The process may include helping clients navigate the public mental health system; accessing information about their benefits; contacting a provider or assisting with transportation to the initial appointment

The social worker will be embedded within the police department and is expected to be operational by summer.

Plymouth

New parking plan under way

> *"Each street will have 15-minute spots, and they will be enforced seven days a week, , to allow all businesses to benefit.*

Beginning today, April 1, there will be specific 15-minute parking spaces in downtown Plymouth to accommodate local businesses.

Tony Bruscato, director of the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority (DDA) said that during the past year, city officials and the DDA have "worked together to creatively assist the business community."

He said that the city has allowed expanding sidewalk patios onto the street using parking spaces as an example of the efforts to help downtown businesses. He said that will continue this year. In addition, he said, city officials approved the striping of Fleet Street to allow for 15-minute parking and both food serving and retail establishments were given the opportunity to request 15-minute on-street parking for curbside takeout service during their hours of operation. Many businesses took advantage of these opportunities when the State of Michigan limited building capacity to 25 percent, he said.

As the state is now allowing for up to 50 percent capacity and the installation of patio extensions for restaurant and retail establishments, a review the curbside and carryout spots and their impact on the parking inventory is necessary, Bruscato said.

"With the sunset of the current business-specific curbside takeout parking program occurring on April 1, the city, in partnership with the DDA, is instituting a program that will designate 15-minute parking spots common to all, and not specific to any one business," he said in a prepared statement. "These spots will be strategically placed throughout the downtown to assist the business community in providing curbside or carryout service while increasing efficiency by freeing up spaces that have only been used periodically."

Bruscato added that the city has also approved the installation of signage for the parking spots throughout the DDA district beginning April 1, the same day the previous curbside takeout parking program is set to expire.

Each street will have 15-minute spots, and they will be enforced seven days a week, to allow all businesses to benefit.

For more information, call the DDA office, (734) 455-1453.

Board names new school trustee

Members of the Plymouth Canton Community Schools Board of Education selected LaRonda Chastang to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Trustee Leonardo Savage last month.

Chastang was among 14 local residents interviewed for the school board position and one of three who were selected for a second interview based on a scoring system completed by current board members.

The mother of three and grandmother of three, Chastang is employed as the vice president of diversity and inclusion for Trinity Health systems based in Livonia.

She earned her bachelors degree at Michigan State University and her master's degree from the University of Michigan.

"I am both excited and honored about the opportunity to serve our community of learners," Chastang said, when her appointment was announced last week. "Being selected from among a dynamic group of applicants is truly humbling, and I commit to work collaboratively alongside the other trustees and superintendent to advance the mission and vision of our district."

Chastang will serve the remainder of Savage's term, which ends in December 2022.

Savage submitted his resignation to the board following serious health issues which prevented him from serving.

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